

Connecticut Irrigation Contractors Association

Testimony of
Curtis Anderson
Tom Marmelstein
Dave Pijnenberg

In Support of
**Proposed House Bill No. 5792, An Act Concerning Efficiency Standards for Automatic
Lawn Sprinklers**

General Assembly's General Law Committee
February 5, 2009

Good afternoon Senator Colapietro, Rep. Shapiro and members of the General Law Committee, my name is Tom Marmelstein and I am testifying on behalf of the Connecticut Irrigation Contractors Association. Here with me today is Curtis Anderson and Dave Pijnenberg. We are here to support HB 5792, An Act Concerning Efficiency Standards for Automatic Lawn Sprinklers. We would respectfully request that this legislation be amended with language that's attached to our testimony. The sponsor of this legislation, Rep. Fontana, has reviewed this language and would support its attachment to this legislation.

Since 2003 all commercial and state agency properties installing an automatic lawn sprinkler system most equip the system with a rain sensor device that will override the irrigation cycle when adequate rainfall has occurred. In addition under current law, municipalities have the option to adopt a local ordinance that would require rain sensors on all municipal properties. Many municipalities have availed themselves of this statute.

Our proposed amendment would simply require that rain sensors be equipped on residential installation. By requiring these devices to be installed on residential properties it would save the consumer thousands of dollars over the life of their irrigation system by not using water during rain events. In addition, this amendment would conserve our precious water supply by preventing unnecessary irrigation.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify, we would be pleased to answer any questions.

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Sec. 29-265b. Rain sensor devices for automatic lawn sprinkler systems. (*Effective October 1, 2009*)

(a) Any state agency or commercial enterprise that begins installation of an automatic lawn sprinkler system on or after October 1, 2003, shall equip such sprinkler system with a rain sensor device or switch that will automatically override the irrigation cycle of such sprinkler system when adequate rainfall has occurred.

(b) A municipality may, by ordinance adopted by its legislative body, require that any automatic lawn sprinkler system, the installation of which begins on or after October 1, 2003, shall be equipped with a rain sensor device or switch that will automatically override the irrigation cycle of such sprinkler system when adequate rainfall has occurred.

(c) Any residential property that begins installation of an automatic lawn sprinkler system on or after October 1, 2009, shall equip sprinkler system with a rain sensor device or switch that will automatically override the irrigation cycle of such sprinkler system when adequate rainfall has occurred.

(P.A. 03-175, S. 2.)